

College of Information Science and Technology



Drexel E-Repository and Archive (iDEA)
<http://idea.library.drexel.edu/>

Drexel University Libraries
www.library.drexel.edu

The following item is made available as a courtesy to scholars by the author(s) and Drexel University Library and may contain materials and content, including computer code and tags, artwork, text, graphics, images, and illustrations (Material) which may be protected by copyright law. Unless otherwise noted, the Material is made available for non profit and educational purposes, such as research, teaching and private study. For these limited purposes, you may reproduce (print, download or make copies) the Material without prior permission. All copies must include any copyright notice originally included with the Material. **You must seek permission from the authors or copyright owners for all uses that are not allowed by fair use and other provisions of the U.S. Copyright Law.** The responsibility for making an independent legal assessment and securing any necessary permission rests with persons desiring to reproduce or use the Material.

Please direct questions to archives@drexel.edu

Interindexer consistency, term usage, and indexer experience levels in the application of image descriptors

Abstract

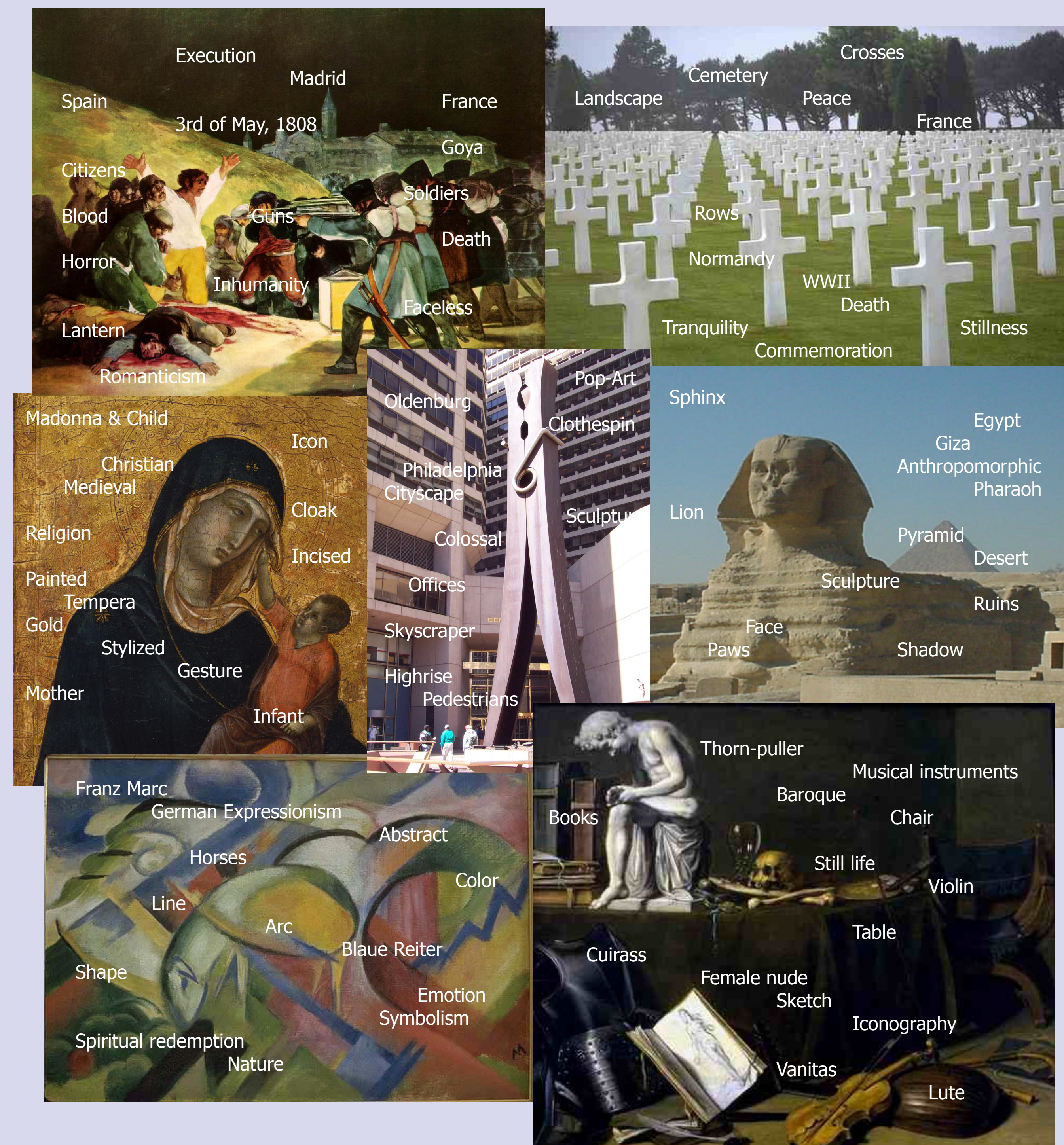
Although images have become ubiquitous objects in the online environment, concept-based image indexing is a topic which has seen relatively little research to date. This study examines concept-based image indexing from several vantage points. The main goal of this research is to study and understand the affect of indexer experience levels on interindexer consistency regarding the choice of indexing terms. Owing to the importance of concept-based indexing for images, this study will provide critical information to the development of criteria for image indexing practices.

Several groups of participants with varying degrees of image indexing and subject expertise will be studied through an interactive Web site which collects responses to a questionnaire and their assignment of indexing terms to a series of images. A questionnaire will gather information on indexer experience levels and basic demographic data, and an image component of the study will gather the indexing terms applied by the participants. Quantitative analysis will be conducted on the data resulting from the questionnaire, while qualitative methods will be employed for analyzing the indexing terms assigned by the participants.

Further aspects to be examined are the multiplicity of term types applied to images (generic description, identification, and interpretation) and the degree of indexing difficulty due to the subject content of the image. The results of this study will offer preliminary information on the role of indexer experience in image indexing, which in turn can be utilized to enhance access to digital collections of visual materials.

Research Questions

How does image indexer experience affect interindexer consistency?
What types of terms (generic description, identification, interpretive) exhibit the highest interindexer consistency among image indexers?
What affect does image legibility have on interindexer consistency?



Principal Elements

Participants:

Novice – students with little or no previous formal education in visually oriented fields.
Moderate – students who have undergone a minimum of five courses in visually oriented fields.
Faculty – faculty and graduate students with a high level of subject knowledge, who have at least achieved a Master's degree in a discipline closely aligned with visual materials.
Professional – individuals employed in positions where image indexing is an on-going and integral part of their everyday activities.

Descriptor types:

Generic description - color, shape, basic object naming.
Identification - specific naming of people and things.
Interpretation - identification of themes not immediately recognizable in the work.

Image types:

Basic level of accessibility - readily recognizable scenes.
Complex level of accessibility - abstract or surreal scenes.
Basic level of interpretation - well-known themes.
Complex level of interpretation - obscure themes.

Expected Results

1. Increased indexing experience and subject expertise will increase the degree of interindexer term consistency.
2. Image descriptor types will be most numerous at the Generic description level, and least numerous at the Interpretation level.
3. Greatest interindexer consistency will be found at the Generic description level, and least at the Interpretation level.
4. Image type will influence the number and type of descriptors used, as well as interindexer consistency.

